

A giant leap for mankind

Footprints on the moon!



Neil Armstrong starts to step off ladder onto surface of the moon

By EDWIN G. PIPP

Detroit News Aerospace Writer

HOUSTON—Where it will end, no one can say.

The planets, certainly. Perhaps the stars. But wherever men go in the years ahead, the marks of their first steps will remain on a barren chunk of rock endlessly whirling in space around the green planet earth.

For today, man's footprints are on the moon, to stay.

A man named Neil Armstrong put them there at the climax of the greatest adventure of discovery ever undertaken. He put them there tentatively, one foot at a time, descending awkwardly from a spindly space ship that looks nothing at all like a Buck Rogers creation.

As he did, he fulfilled a responsibility to say something for history.

"That's one small step for man," he said. "One giant leap for mankind."

HIS VOICE CRACKLED across the void of space, carried by the magic of technology that put him there. The world watched on television.

Nothing can remove that moment from history—not failure in future flights, or even the perils remaining in this one. Nor even the fact that the achievement resulted from a political race between great nations.

Astronauts Armstrong and Edwin E. (Buzz) Aldrin, inspired by the awesome sight of a new world, proved that it was not necessary to send poets to the moon.

"It has a stark beauty all its own," said Armstrong.

"It's like much of the high desert of the United States."

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration set the exact time of Armstrong's first step on moon soil as 9:56:20 p.m. (Detroit time) yesterday.

When Aldrin stepped on the lunar surface 20 minutes later, he sucked in his breath and commented reverently:

"Beautiful, beautiful, beautiful. Magnificent desolation."

IN A TRIUMPH unparalleled in history the spaceship Eagle landed on the lunar surface yesterday and its two-man crew started their exploration of the moon.

After more than two hours outside their

Neil A. Armstrong planted his white left boot on the gray lunar dust and spoke the first words of the first man to set foot on the moon:

"That's one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind."

Earlier Armstrong had reported the touchdown of the lunar landing craft with these words:

"Houston . . . Tranquillity Base here. The Eagle has landed."

fragile moonship, the astronauts climbed back up the ladder and sealed themselves and their priceless samples of moon dust and rocks in the cabin for their perilous journey home to earth.

While they shared their triumphant adventure, Astronaut Michael Collins orbited the moon in the command ship Columbia, waiting to take them back to earth.

On the lunar surface are scientific experiments that can be used for years to help scientists learn more about the moon, earth and the universe.

In their ship are rocks and surface samples from the moon that will keep scientists busy for years, and a sample of the solar wind, the effect of solar radiation in space.

Standing on the moon is an American flag. Messages from world leaders are in a small disc.

MOMENTS AFTER STEPPING onto the surface Armstrong gave the world its first on-the-spot report of what he found. He said: "The surface is fine and powdery. I can pick it up loosely with my toe. It does adhere in fine layers like powdered charcoal to the

sole and sides of my boots. I only go in a small fraction of an inch, maybe an eighth of an inch, but I can see the footprints of my boots and the treads in the fine sandy particles.

"There seems to be no difficulty in moving around, as we suspected . . . It's actually no trouble to walk around."

His description was plainly heard on earth, 240,000 miles away, by some half a billion persons who also saw him step onto the moon through black and white television, carried to the moon in the LM.

It was almost like watching a science fiction movie, except that this was it . . . men on the moon.

ARMSTRONG AND ALDRIN, who stepped on the moon 20 minutes later, could be seen moving around on the rock-strewn, pitted surface in their white space suits with the bulky life support packs on their backs.

They walked with a bouncy, springy step in the moon's gravity, which is one-sixth of earth's.

Armstrong's first chore was to obtain a

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Lunar drama —the words of Neil and Buzz

HOUSTON — (AP) — Here is a partial text of the conversation between Mission Control here and Tranquillity Base, beginning as astronaut Neil Armstrong left the landing craft Eagle to precede astronaut Edwin Aldrin onto the surface of the moon.

The hatch opened, Aldrin talked Armstrong through his maneuvers with a television camera and backpack through the Eagle's exit. Then the conversation began.

ALDRIN—Up, now you're clear . . . now move it toward me. Straight down, relax a little bit. Plenty of room. Have you lined up nicely. Toward me a little bit, down. OK, now you're clear . . . You're touching the . . . hinge . . .

ARMSTRONG—What hinge?

ALDRIN— . . . roll to the left. OK, now you're clear. You're lined up on the platform. Move your left foot to the right a little bit. OK, that's good . . .

ARMSTRONG—OK, now I'm gonna check . . . here.

ALDRIN—Okay, you're not quite squared away. Go to the, go right a little. Now you're even . . . That's good. Got plenty of room to your left. It's too close-in-the, uh, other side.

ARMSTRONG—How am I doing?

ALDRIN—You're doing fine.

ALDRIN—All right now you want this bag?

ARMSTRONG—Yeah. Got it. OK, Houston, I'm on the porch.

MC—Roger, Neil.

ALDRIN—OK, stand by Neil.

ARMSTRONG—Need a little slack.

ARMSTRONG—I need more slack, Buzz?

ALDRIN—No, hold it just a minute.

ARMSTRONG—OK.

ALDRIN—OK, everything's nice and straight in here.

ARMSTRONG—Okay, can you pull the door open a little more? . . . I'm gonna pull it now . . . Houston, the MESA came down, all right.

MC—Stand by. OK, Neil, we can see you coming down the ladder now.

ARMSTRONG—OK, I just checked getting back up to that first step . . . ladder didn't collapse too far, but it's adequate to get back up. It's a pretty good little jump. I'm at the foot of the ladder, the LM foot pads are only depressed in the surface about uh, one or two inches, although the surface appears to be very very fine grained as you get close to it. It's almost like a powder down there. It's very fine. I'm going to step off the LM now. That's one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind.

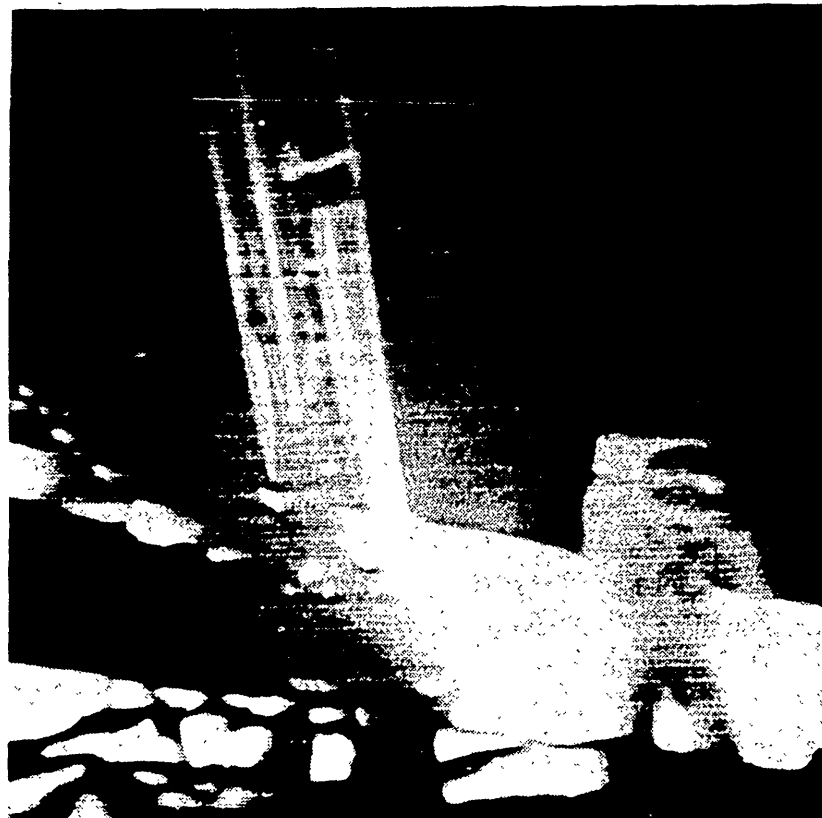
ARMSTRONG — The surface is fine and powdery. I can pick it up loosely with my toe. The dirt adhered in fine layers like powdered charcoal to the, uh, to the sole and inside of my boots. I only go, oh, an eighth of an inch, but I can see footprints of my boots and the treads and the fine, sandy particles.

There seems to be no difficulty in moving around, as we suspected. It's even perhaps easier than the simulations of

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First man is on the moon! Armstrong walks warily at first



After a few minutes, he moves away from module with ease

—News Photos by Graie Wellman from WWJ-TV monitor

Heading home, Eagle blasts from moon

By STEPHEN CAIN

Detroit News Staff Writer

HOUSTON—They're coming home. Trailing a blast of flaming hot gases across their historic tracks on the moon, Apollo 11 Astronauts Neil A. Armstrong and Edwin E. Aldrin Jr. blasted off shortly before 1 p.m. today.

Left behind was the bottom half of their Eagle spacecraft, a singed reminder for future space explorers of man's first brief visit to earth's nearest neighbor.

The descent stage was the platform for a flawless lift-off, putting them in orbit to rejoin astronaut Michael Collins in the mother ship, Columbia.

Collins, the forgotten man of yesterday's spectacular, flew the Columbia over Tranquillity Base and Eagle exactly 70 seconds before lift-off.

He was in a circular orbit 69 miles high and swung the nose of his spacecraft down so he could track Eagle arching up from below.

Eagle took 16 seconds to rise 569 feet, and pointed west over the lunar equator.

Two minutes later it was almost two miles high and speeding along at 685 miles an hour.

Four minutes out and seven miles high, Eagle had more than doubled its velocity to 1,645 miles an hour as it moved out over the massive Sabine Crater.

The seven-mile height was critical—Eagle was now high

enough so that Collins could drop down for a rescue if necessary. Three and a half minutes later and four miles higher Eagle established a stable orbit at 3,600 miles an hour.

. . . while Luna lands

MANCHESTER, England — (Reuters) — The unmanned Russian spacecraft Luna 15 apparently landed today on the moon's Sea of Crisis, 500 miles from where the Apollo 11 lunar module landed with the American astronauts, the Jodrell Bank observatory reported. (Detailed story on Page 10A.)

Kennedy is charged in fatality

From Special, AP and UPI Dispatches

EDGARTOWN, Mass.—It was the kind of an evening designed to be relaxing. A happy party, a cookout on a small island off Martha's Vineyard. A reunion of old friends, and a chance to let down after a day of sailboat racing on the open ocean.

It ended in tragedy, an automobile accident, with a young woman drowned and Senator Edward M. (Ted) Kennedy charged with leaving the scene of a fatal accident.

The police chief of this small resort town, Dominic J. Arena, says he is satisfied there was no negligence on the part of the senator, but "the matter of the time period after the

accident . . . There is, in my opinion, a violation concerning going from the scene, leaving the scene."

The dead woman was Mary J. Kopechne, 28, of Washington, a passenger in Kennedy's car when it skidded off a narrow bridge and landed bottom up in eight feet of salt water.

A FORMAL COMPLAINT charging Kennedy with leaving the scene of an accident was filed by Arena with District Court clerk Thomas A. Teller.

Arena said that an Edgartown lawyer, Richard J. McCarron, had informed the clerk he is representing Kennedy. McCarron asked for a hearing, to which Kennedy is entitled

before any summons is issued.

Teller set July 28 for the hearing, which will be held in the Edgartown courthouse.

Arena, asked if he had checked the possibility that the accident was related to drinking at the party, replied:

"I did not ask that question of the senator. There was no other physical evidence at the scene that there might have been drinking involved. I'm not pursuing that line at all. I'm still standing on the fact that there was no negligence involved."

McCarron told reporters that since he knew in advance of Arena's intention to file the cita-

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